

Appln. of: BONATTI, Davide et al.
Appln. No.: 10/663,180

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 5-16 and 18-20 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 5-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vierling, or DE '515 or FR '166.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time and courtesy in discussing the present rejection by telephone on February 16, 2005.

Claim 1 has been amended as discussed with the Examiner. Specifically, the last paragraph of claim 1 has been amended to require (with additions underlined):

means operating in conjunction with the holding means, by which the height of the selfsame holding means is varied during the course of their passage along the predetermined path; wherein said means operating in conjunction with the holding means for varying the height of the holding means includes means by which to guide the movement of the slides comprising a generally tubular element that presents a C-shaped cross-sectional profile, a longitudinal opening, and is centered on the vertical shaft, the means by which to guide the movement of the slides being replaceable to vary the movement of the slides.

None of Vierling, DE '515 or FR '166, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a structure where the movement of the slides can be varied by replacing the means to guide the movement of the slides.

In view of this, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under Vierling, DE '515 or FR '166 be withdrawn and the claims be indicated as allowable.

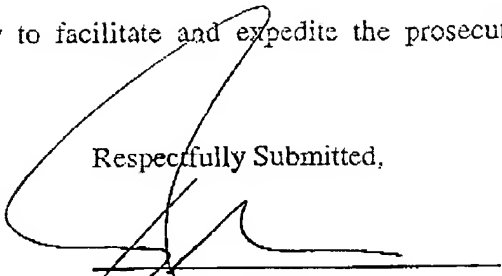
Since all the dependent claims depend directly and indirectly upon and contain all the limitations of patentable claim 1, they are felt to be patentable too for the reasons given above, as well as for the further limitations contained therein.

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants' counsel remains

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ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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